

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of determining the number of coins in a coin store comprising ~~which includes~~ the steps of generating an acoustic pulse, generating a first waveform based on the reflections of the pulse by the store, comparing the first waveform to a second waveform and calculating the number on the basis of the comparison.

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the second waveform is a reference waveform derived in a calibration operation.

3. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the second waveform is derived from reflections of an acoustic pulse when a different number of coins is in said coin store.

4. (Original) A method according to claim 3 which includes the steps of generating the first waveform before, and generating the second waveform after, the coin store has performed one of a coin dispense or a coin receive operation.

5. (Original) A method according to claim 4 which includes the step of disregarding the first waveform and generating a further waveform if the coin store has not performed said operation within a predetermined interval.

6. (Currently amended) A method according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein the comparison includes the step of identifying a portion of the first or the second waveform attributable to reflection of the pulse by a topmost coin in the coin store.

7. (Currently amended) A method according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein the number is indicative of the height of a stack of coins.

8. (Currently amended) A method according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 including the step of scaling either or both of the waveforms on a normative time axis prior to the comparison.

9. (Original) A method according to claim 8, wherein the scaling is based on a measured temperature at which the first waveform is generated.

10. (Original) A method according to claim 8 which includes the steps of matching at least one feature of the first waveform to a corresponding feature of the second waveform and scaling either or both of the waveforms with reference to the feature.

11. (Original) A method according to claim 8, wherein the first and second waveforms are correlated to determine a scaling factor.

12. (Currently amended) A method according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 which includes the step of normalizing the amplitude of either or both of the first and the second waveforms prior to the comparison.

13. (Currently amended) A method according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein the comparison is a subtraction of one of the first or second waveforms from the other of the waveforms.

14. (Currently amended) A method of identifying a coin store ~~which includes~~ comprising the steps of generating a sample waveform by detecting acoustic pulses reflected by the coin store and comparing the sample waveform to a plurality of reference waveforms each corresponding to a known coin store.

15. (Original) A method according to claim 14 which includes the steps of generating the reference waveforms and storing them during calibration.

16. (Currently amended) A method according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 14 wherein the pulse is generated by a spark.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently amended) A coin handling apparatus ~~which includes~~ comprising a coin store having at least one coin container, means for storing sets of reference data, each set corresponding to a respective coin store type, means for identifying a coin store type by deriving measurement data from the coin store and comparing it with a plurality of sets of reference data and means for measuring the level of coins in the container by deriving measurement data and comparing it with reference data applicable to that container.

19. (Original) A coin handling apparatus according to claim 18 wherein the coin store includes a plurality of containers and the identification means derives measurement data from each container.

20. (Currently amended) A coin handling apparatus according to claim 18 ~~or 19~~ which includes a thermometer.

21. (Cancelled)